



City of Santa Barbara

Parks and Recreation Department

www.sbparksandrecreation.com

www.ci.santa-barbara.ca.us

Dear Liz and Redevelopment Agency Staff

I inspected the existing trees and numbered them starting with the Queen Palm closest to but across from the California Pepper Tree and looping around the plaza toward the News Press building and around. I have attached a numbered map. For each tree I have indicated a condition of the leaf crown and trunk. The results are in the table below.

Tree Number	Species	Crown Condition	Trunk Condition	Transplant Success
1	Queen Palm	Good	Fair	Maybe
2	Tree Gone	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	Queen Palm	Fair	Poor	No
4	Queen Palm	Fair	Poor	No
5	Queen Palm	Good	Fair	No
6 *	Cal. Fan Palm	Declining	Good	N/A
7	Tree Gone	N/A	N/A	N/A
8	Queen Palm	Fair	Poor	No
9	Queen Palm	Good	Poor	No
10	Queen Palm	Good	Poor	No
11 *	Stump	N/A	N/A	N/A
12	Queen Palm	Fair	Poor	No
13	Queen Palm	Fair	Poor	No
14	Tree Gone	N/A	N/A	N/A
15	Queen Palm	Fair	Poor	No
16	Queen Palm	Fair	Poor	No
17	Queen Palm	Fair	Poor	N/A
18	Queen Palm	Fair	Poor	N/A
19	Tree Gone	N/A	N/A	N/A
20	Tree Gone	N/A	N/A	N/A
21	Historic Cal. Pepper	N/A	N/A	N/A

As you can see by the table above the condition of these trees is not ideal. I do not recommend the trees be relocated. In order for palms to be relocated successfully the palms should be in good to great condition. The likelihood that these palms can be successfully relocated is minimal. If the transplanting moves forward, I recommend the root ball that is dug be as large as possible. The larger the root ball the greater the likelihood of success when transplanting palms.

The proposed grading so the plaza will drain to the swale in the center may have a detrimental effect on palm number 6, 17, and 18, depending on the degree of grading needed and the proximity to these trees. Any existing tree should have protective



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fencing placed around the tree's critical root zone (CRZ) to protect them during construction. For the palms the fence should be placed a minimum of six feet away from the trunk. No equipment or materials should be allowed on the CRZ. No mechanical digging should occur in the CRZ.

Tree number six and the stump at location number 11, as well as two trees that have since been removed, were placed to designate the corners of the foundation for a building the used to be on the site. All measures possible should be taken to preserve the existing tree number six, and the project should consider replacing the other three.

Finally, the Historic California Pepper should be protected during construction by only hand digging and preserving any existing roots in the area of construction. Additionally the CRZ should be a minimum of three feet outside the dripline of the tree. I am including a diagram of dripline and CRZ for the pepper tree. I would like to see the substrate under the road changed to improve the likelihood this tree will continue to live, and enhance the rooting zone.

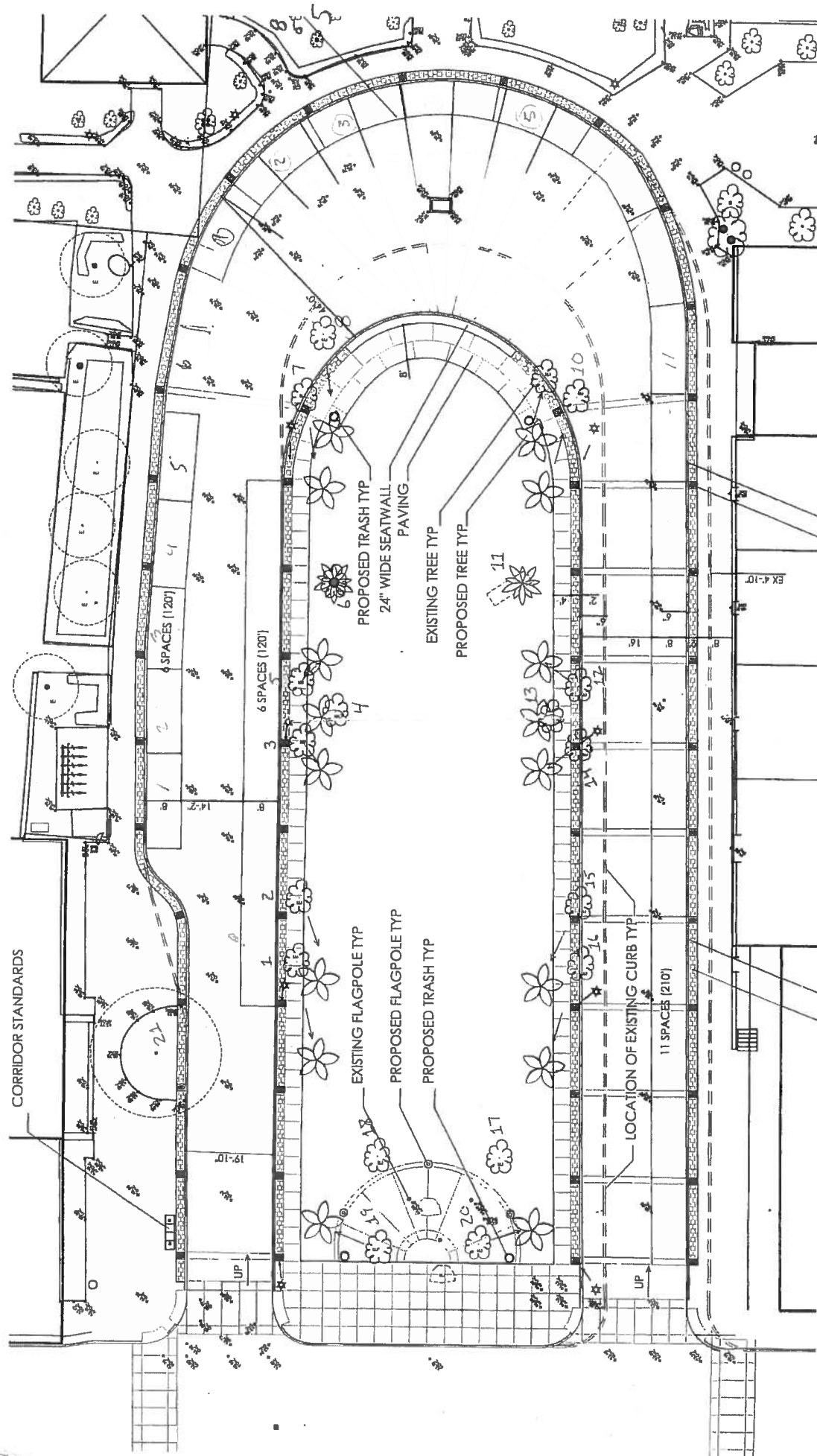
Once the curbs and street are removed I would like any base material removed without any root pruning and the base replaced with structural soil. I am attaching an example structural soil. I am also concerned that the necessary compaction for the plaza "road" under the tree during re-construction will restrict air and water availability for the pepper tree roots. I would like to minimize that compaction as much as possible without jeopardizing the "road".

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Downey".

Tim Downey
Urban Forest Superintendent

cc: Santos Escobar
Jill Zachary



PROPOSED FEATURES
 Site Lighting, Landscape Planting
 Site Furnishings & Amenities
 Campbell & Campbell

PRELIMINARY DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
 Plaza De La Guerra
 Infrastructure Improvements Project
 March 22, 2010

Critical Root Zone.

